

Applicant : William Shepard et al.
Serial No. : 10/735,447
Filed : December 12, 2003
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Attorney's Docket No.: 05918-209001 / 99999

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings include changes to Fig. 2 on sheet 1 of the drawings, as originally submitted, and replaces the original sheet including Figs. 1 and 2.

Figure 2 on sheet 1 of the drawings, as originally submitted, should have been labeled as "Fig. 1A," as it is referred to in the specification. Thus, Applicants have amended the label of that figure to read "Fig. 1A," rather than "Fig. 2."

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheet (1 page)

REMARKS

In response to the office action dated October 5, 2005, Applicants have cancelled claim 18. Claims 1-17 are presented for examination.

The Examiner noted in the office action that the declaration originally submitted by Applicants was defective. Applicants have submitted a new declaration along with this response.

The Examiner noted that the replacement drawing received May 3, 2004 (submitted April 28, 2004) was not accepted due to poor quality, which prevented it from being properly scanned. As a result, the drawings have been objected to because the microphotograph on page 1, as originally submitted, was improperly labeled as Fig. 2, rather than Fig. 1A. Thus, Applicants have again submitted a replacement drawing to properly label original Fig. 2 on page 1 as "Fig. 1A." Applicants request acceptance of the amended figure.

Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Harwood (U.S. Patent No. 3,047,444) and under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harwood in view of Gorman (U.S. Patent No. 5,904,793). Without conceding that the position of the Examiner is correct and without forfeiting the opportunity to pursue this claim in a continuing application, Applicants have canceled claim 18.

The Examiner acknowledged that claims 1-17, the only claims presented for examination, were allowed. Applicants request an official notice of allowance of these claims.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 29, 2005



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